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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,882	01/28/2002	Hartmut Beug	0652.2430001/EKS/AES	2064

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STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

FETTEROLF, BRANDON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1642

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/055,882

Applicant(s)

BEUG ET AL.

Examiner

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 and 3, as specifically drawn to a murine and human polypeptide designated p12 with an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 and 4 respectively, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
- II. Claims 2 and 4, as specifically drawn to an isolated DNA molecule comprising a polynucleotide with the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and 3, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- III. Claims 5-8, as specifically drawn to a method for identifying a compound with the ability to induce apoptosis by determining the compounds ability to mimic the interaction of p12 with a critical interaction partner required for inducing apoptosis, wherein the interaction partner of p12 is VDAC, classified in class 435, subclass 5.
- IV. Claims 9-10, as specifically drawn to a method for identifying a compound with the ability to induce apoptosis by determining a compounds ability to up regulate p12 transcription, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- V. Claims 11-12, drawn to the use of a compound identified with the ability to induce apoptosis by mimicking the interaction of p12 with a critical interaction partner for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and prophylaxis of proliferative disorders, wherein said proliferative disorder is cancer, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.

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- VI. Claims 13-14, as specifically drawn to antibodies against murine p12 and human p12, classified in class 530, subclass 387.1.
- VII. Claim 15, as specifically drawn to the use of a compound identified with the ability to induce apoptosis by up regulating p12 transcription for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment and prophylaxis of a proliferative disorder, classified in class 424, subclass 184.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups I-II and VI represent separate and distinct products which are made by materially different methods, and are used in materially different methods which have different modes of operation, different functions and different effects. For example, the DNA of group II is related to the protein of group I by virtue of the fact that the DNA codes for the protein. The DNA molecule has utility for the recombinant production of the protein in a host cell. Although the DNA and the protein are related, since the DNA encodes the specifically claimed protein, they are distinct inventions because the protein product can be made by other and materially distinct processes, such as purification from the natural source. Further, DNA can be used for processes other than the production of protein, such as nucleic acid hybridization assays.

The invention of Groups III-V and VII are materially distinct methods of which differ at least in objectives, method steps, reagents and/or dosage and/or schedules used, response variables, and criteria for success. For example, Group III is drawn specifically to a method of identifying a compound with the ability to induce apoptosis by mimicking the interaction between p12 and VDAC, whereas Group IV is drawn to a method of identifying a compound with the ability to induce apoptosis by determining the compounds ability to up-regulate p12 transcription. Furthermore, Group V as specifically drawn to the use of a compound identified with the ability to induce apoptosis for the preparation of a medicament for treating cancer, whereas Group VII is drawn to the use of a compound for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a proliferative disorder.

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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Furthermore, because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search of the literature required for one group is not required for another group, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Species Election

Group I-II (Claims 14) is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising human and murine amino acid and nucleotide sequences. Applicant must choose between human and murine species. Currently, there are approximately eight different databases that accompany the results of a search for one discrete amino acid sequence or nucleotide sequence and each result set from a particular database must be carefully considered. Hence, the search for different polypeptides, and different polypeptide segments in the databases, in addition to searching the organic molecule databases would require extensive searching and review.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant transverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

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Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

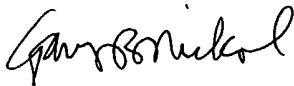
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD whose telephone number is (571)-272-2919. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Siew can be reached on (571) 272-0787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD
Examiner
Art Unit 1642

BF



GARY NICKOL
PRIMARY EXAMINER